

Alaska Comments

The survey doesn't allow for the explanation of certain aspects of our program so I want to provide a little background on Alaska's Drinking Water Protection Program: Alaska never participated in the original Wellhead Protection Program promoted by EPA. The Source Water Assessment process was our first attempt to delineate protection areas for public drinking water systems (wells/intakes). We completed Source Water Assessment Reports for all the regulated drinking water systems and encourage them to use the results of the SWA to develop protection plans.

We have recently developed criteria for a State of Alaska- Endorsed Protection Plan. However, we're still working on incentives for systems to develop and implement them. Although our ultimate goal is to increase the number of systems that have Endorsed Protection Plans, at this time focusing on meeting EPA's Substantial Implementation goals by 2011. Currently, we are focusing our efforts towards inventorying the State to determine what protection efforts currently exist within the State. These protection efforts may count towards Substantial Implementation reporting but not towards Endorsement. Once we can provide some better incentives, I anticipate increased interest in Endorsed Protection Plans.

Thank you for taking the time to put together this survey. We'd really love to see the results of the survey when it's complete.

Regards,

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